Drinking Water/Electrification in SC/ST Dominated Areas

5489. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government to provide electricity and drinking-water facilities to the colonies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocation made for this purpose during 1992-93, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to work on a time-bound action-plan for providing the said facilities in the above areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) The drinking water facilities to the colonies of scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of rural areas are provided under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Centrally Sponsored Accelerated rural Water Supply programme (ARWSP). The first source of sage drinking water supply has to be provided in Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes locolities. Atleast 25% of the outlay under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is to be utilised for drinking water facilities for Scheduled Castes and 10% for Scheduled Tribes. Similar minimum our lays are earmarded under the Minimum Needs Programme for Scheduled Castes under the Special component Plan and for Scheduled Tribes under the Tribal Sub-Plan and for taking up Rural Water Supply Schemes exclusively for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes respetively. In addition, in order to accelerate their coverage, special, special assistance of Rs. 19.80 crore was sanctionde to 9 States in 1989-90 for covering 11,000 waterless Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes habitations. A sum of Rs. 60 crore has been sanctoned during 1991-92 for coverint 30,000 Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes habitations in the various States as part of Dr. Baba Saheb Centnary Programme.

No scheme is in operation/under consideration to provide electricity facilities to the colonies of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled tribes in th erural areas.

(b) State-wise allocation under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme for 1992-93 has not been finalised so far. However, under ARWSP a minimum amount of Rs. 97.5 crore for Scheduled Castes and Rs. 39 crore for Scheduled Tribes will be utilised for drinking water facilities in 1992-93.

While deciding the plan funds and physical targets and formulating the rural electrifacation scheme by the State Electricity Departments, the question of providing electricity to the tribal and Harijan basis is kept in view. The identification/section of villages for electrification is decided by the States.

(c) and (d). All the un-served and underseved Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe localities will be provided safe drinking water facilities under the Normal Plan Programme by the end of the Eighth Five Plan.

Out of the total of 1,11, 886 tribal villages, 73,596 Tribal villages have been reported as electrified on 31st December, 1991. About 2,45,906 Harijan basis were reported electrified as on 31st December, 1991.